

Along the Via Emilia

Forlì



Bell tower of the Abbey of San Mercuriale
Photo by D. Castellucci



Piazza Saffi
Photo by D. Castellucci

A peaceful and quiet town on the Via Emilia, in the heart of Romagna. A lively cultural and trade centre where the love for its territory is represented by the high quality of life.

A brief history In Roman times, the town had the name of *Forum Livii* and was founded around the 2nd century BC. The central position of the town on the Via Emilia between the hills and the plains and near the sea has marked its history, transforming it into a lively trade centre. It was also strongly fought over for its position. It suffered the rule of Barbarians and was ruled by the brave Guido da Montefeltro, captain of the people of Forlì, who defeated the French army sent by Pope Martin IV in 1282. The town prospered under the Ordelaffis in the 14th and 15th century and later under Caterina Sforza, who left a unique heritage. The town had a charming history, being first subject to the dominion by Cesare Borgia and later by the Papal States with a brief yet turbulent period under Napoleon.

In the 19th century it lived the events linked to the Carbonari and Mazzini and was destroyed during the Second World War. The town was rapidly rebuilt and today treasures its history.

Streets and buildings A fascinating old town with an irregular shape in which the main streets radiate from the central Piazza Saffi and become wide communication and connection routes. The winding Corso Diaz, the elegant Corso Garibaldi, the long Corso della Repubblica and the wide Corso Mazzini, each one with its own characteristics and style, in a structural balance of shape and form. It is worth walking down the streets and stopping in front of the magnificent buildings: Palazzo del Podestà, Palazzo Albertini, Palazzo Gaddi, these are just a few of the many buildings which deserve more than merely being part of a list.

Places of culture This town has always dedicated a lot of space to culture, history and traditions. Forlì is the seat of an important university and distinguishes itself for the high number of museums, all very different yet equally interesting: San Domenico Museum, "Antonio Santarelli" Civic Archaeological Museum, Civic Art Gallery, "Benedetto Pergoli" Ethnographic Museum of Romagna, "Ferrante Foschi" Ornithological Museum, Villa Saffi, "Aurelio Saffi" Risorgimento Museum, "Albicini" Armoury Museum, "Dante Foschi" Historical Museum, Theatre Museum of Romagna.